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29 July 1959

SOVIET COMMENT ON VICE PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT TO THE USSR

Moscow's propaganda approach to Nixon's visit and the Sokolniki exhibition mingles guarded approval of the overall purposes of such exchanges with sharp criticism of specific aspects of the current U.S. contributions. The critical interjections are broadcast to home and foreign audiences alike--an indication that Moscow is concerned to show worldwide as well as Soviet audiences that U.S. intentions are not yet entirely amicable.

Propaganda broadcast to the Soviet Home Audience only
(for first four days of each visit)

	Mikoyan Visit to USA	Macmillan Visit to Moscow	Nixon Visit to Moscow
brief news items:	21	28	29
commentaries:*	1	13	4
Total propaganda:	22	41	33

*consists of newspaper and radio articles, speeches, and lengthy reportage.

In all its broadcasts, to both home and foreign audiences, from 23 to 27 July, Radio Moscow carries a total of 142 commentaries on Nixon's visit and the U.S. exhibition, seven of them in the home service. Kosygin's U.S. visit and the Soviet exhibition drew a slightly larger volume--44 commentaries, 11 of them in the home service--during a comparable four-day period.

Debate at Exhibition The most widely broadcast single item (41 times, once to nearly all Moscow's audiences, including the Soviet audience) is the PRAVDA account of Nixon's public discussion with Khrushchev prior to the formal opening of the exhibition. The PRAVDA account is broadcast tertually in the home service, in excerpted or summarized form to foreign audiences, including North America, with no foreign-language version including anything not in the home service version. PRAVDA's account gives Khrushchev all the best of the debate: 62 sentences are devoted to Khrushchev's remarks, 11 to Nixon's; the Vice President's debating points are totally suppressed; and Nixon is reported variously as "in a hurried retreat," finding a topic "obviously not after (his) taste," and so forth. No fuller account of the debate has yet been broadcast by Radio Moscow, although TASS reports that the video tape was carried by Moscow TV on 27 and 28 July.

TASS' account of the jocular conversation between Nixon and Khrushchev at the latter's country villa is more in accord with the Western news accounts. But even in this case TASS omits Nixon's jibe concerning Khrushchev's frequent efforts to "make propaganda" on the "captive nations" issue.

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Document No. 81
No Change in Class. ☒
Declassified
Class. Changed to: TS S C
Next Review Date: ----------
Auth.: HR 70-3
Date: 15 MAY 1979 By: 37 169

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Nixon's public appearances. Nixon's two public speeches in Moscow have reportedly been published in full by PRAVDA and IZVESTIA. The speech at the exhibit was broadcast by the home service in full Russian translation the evening of the same day. The home service broadcast live the ceremonies of the exhibition opening, including Nixon's speech in English, but no Russian translation was provided. On the morning of 25 July, the home service rebroadcast the text of Khrushchev's speech but not Nixon's. The 1400 summary of Nixon's speech, broadcast to a number of foreign audiences and presumably published in the text of the Soviet press, omitted those sections praising the U.S. way of life and implying criticism of certain Soviet policies.

Nixon's speech on arrival in Leningrad is summarized fully for home and foreign audiences. His speech on departing from Leningrad is broadcast verbatim in the home service in Russian, and summarized for foreign audiences. In general, Nixon's major activities in regard to tours, visits, receptions--though not all his statements--are reported fully.

The first detailed rebuttal to any of Nixon's public speeches comes in the form of letters to the editor of IZVESTIA released 24 July, commenting on Nixon's address at the opening of the U.S. exhibition. Workers' letters object to the statement that "nobody in the world" knows better than President Eisenhower what war is. They also take issue with Nixon's claims of American prosperity.

Criticism of Specific Themes. The coincidence of Captive Nations Week with Nixon's visit is clearly the principal point of irritation. The relatively number of full commentaries devoted to the issue are not especially bitter, but the issue is brought up repeatedly in reports of Nixon's activities, propaganda on the exhibition, and speeches by Khrushchev. The general tone is one of amusement and regret that such a "cold war" development should coincide with efforts to improve relations. Peking and East European radios are more openly bitter than Moscow about this "vicious slander."

The continued presence of U.S. troops abroad is the second most frequently mentioned issue. The test-ban problem, in keeping with Moscow's relative silence on this subject in recent weeks, is rarely mentioned.

Nixon is the target of a more personal attack for his alleged attempt to give "alms" of 100 rubles to a Soviet worker. The worker's letter to IZVESTIA protesting this "rude and unforgivable" act is reported fully to home and foreign audiences (25 July). Another home service news item (24 July) speaks derisively of Nixon's assumption that a boy he saw carrying newspapers was a newsboy. Such personal attacks seem to have ceased since Nixon left Moscow. During Nixon's stay both in Moscow and the provinces, however, broadcasts repeatedly report "awkward" questions asked Nixon by Soviet workers, on U.S. blacks, Captive Nations Week, and so forth.

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